

BUSINESS & LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 12
DATE 2-9-09
BILL NO. SB 287

February 5, 2009

Dear Honorable Senator,

I strongly encourage you to **not** support the Consumer Health Freedom and Access Act SB287.

I have lived in Montana for the last 15 years and I am a consumer of massage therapy. My massage therapist is licensed in another state.

A freedom of access bill does **not** provide protection for the health, safety and welfare of Montana citizens. In addition it does **not** require the provider to adhere to any *educational* or *ethical* standards

It is only meant for the provider to give a list of what training they have and then the public must decide if they believe that the statement is valid or that the provider has enough training. This clearly puts the burden of proof on Montana citizens. If a customer is treated unethically or damaged in some way by the provider, there is not any regulatory body to report the harm to.

For example, a massage therapist in Great Falls was recently charged with the rape of a client. If the Consumer Health Freedom and Access ACT SB 287 was to pass, this person would not be required to have a background check for sexual crimes. Further as this bill reads even after a conviction of such a heinous crime, this massage therapist would be allowed to practice massage therapy in Montana without restraint.

Furthermore, under this bill prostitutes can advertise as massage therapists. This is a problem in states having laws similar to SB287.

Please protect the public and do **not** support SB287

Thank you for your time and service in the Montana Legislature.

Sincerely,

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